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RULES OF THE HOUSE

AND

Joint Rules

OF THE

Senate and House of Representatives

OF THE

SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

State of Montana, 1901

1901

STATE PUBLISHING CO.

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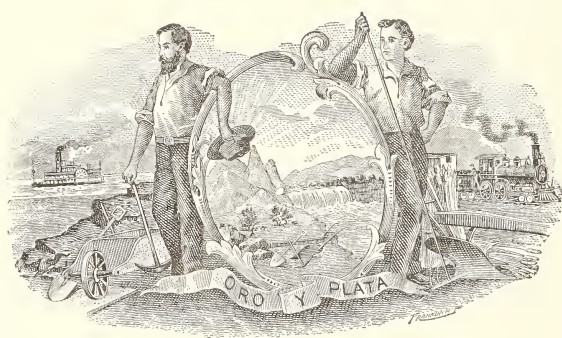
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Rules of the House

SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

RULE I.

Attendance and Decorum.

1. Every member shall be present in the hall of the House during the sittings, unless necessarily prevented or excused. He shall vote on each question put unless he has a direct personal or pecuniary interest in the event of such question except as provided in Rule XIX.

2. No smoking shall be allowed in the hall of the House, or lobby, at any time while the House is in session. The Sergeant-at-Arms is hereby required to strictly enforce the observance of this rule.

3. The hour for the meeting of the House shall be ten o'clock A. M. unless by the House otherwise directed.

RULE II.

Duties of the Speaker.

1. The Speaker shall take the chair on every Legislative day precisely at the hour to which the House shall have adjourned at the last sitting, immediately call the members to order, and after prayer by the Chaplain and on the appearance of a Quorum, cause the proceedings of the last day's sitting to be read, having previously examined and approved the same.

2. He shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries, or in the lobby may cause the same to be cleared.

3. He shall have general control, except as provided by

rule or law, of the Hall of the House, and of the corridors and passages.

4. He shall sign all acts, addresses and resolutions in the presence of the House, and all writs, warrants and subpoenas of, or issued by Order of the House, and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal by any member, when such appeal is supported by two other members, upon which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by permission of the House.

5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting; and shall put questions in this form, to-wit: "As many as are in favor (as the question may be) say Aye;" and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "As many as are opposed say No." If he doubts, or a division is called for the House shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats and then those in the negative; if he still doubts, or a count is required by at least one-fifth of a quorum, he shall name one from each side of the question, to tell the members in the affirmative and negative, which being reported, he shall rise and state the decision.

6. He shall not be required to vote in ordinary legislative proceedings, except when his vote would be decisive, or on a yea and nay vote, or where the House is engaged in voting by ballot; and in all cases of a tie vote the question shall be lost, except on an appeal from the decision of the chair.

RULE III.

Speaker Pro Tem.

The Speaker Pro Tem shall perform all the duties of Speaker in the absence of that officer; and on such other occasions as the Speaker may request.

RULE IV.

Duties of the Clerk.

1. The Chief Clerk shall keep a correct journal of the proceedings of the House, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him. He shall superintend the recording of the

journal of the proceedings, the engrossing, enrolling, transcribing and copying of bills, resolutions, etc.; shall permit no records or papers belonging to the House to be taken out of his custody otherwise than in the regular course of business; shall report any missing papers to the Speaker; shall have general supervision of the entire clerical force of the House, under the direction of the Speaker; and generally shall perform all the duties pertaining to his office as clerk.

2. Clerk may correct certain errors. The Chief Clerk and his engrossing clerks, in all proper cases, shall correct any mere clerical errors in any House bill, memorial or resolution, such as errors in orthography, or the use of one word for another, as "affect" for "effect," "previous" for "previously," and the like; and also all mistakes in numbering the sections and reference thereto, whether such mistakes occur in the original bill or are caused by amendments made thereto: provided such corrections shall not be made after engrossment, except by an order of the House; and provided further, that all such corrections shall be reported to the Speaker. But no corrections other than such as are authorized by this rule shall be made at any time by the clerk or his assistants, unless upon order of the House.

RULE V.

Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to attend the House during its sessions, to maintain order under the direction of the Speaker, and pending the election of the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore under the direction of the Clerk, execute the commands of the House, and all processes issued by authority thereof, directed to him by the Speaker, and shall have general supervision of the entire administrative force of the House.

RULE VI.

Chaplain.

The Chaplain shall attend at the commencement of each day's sitting of the House, and open the same with prayer.

RULE VII.

Questions of Privilege.

Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; second, the rights, reputation and conduct of the members individually in their representative capacity only.

RULE VIII.

Of Committees.

1. The Speaker shall appoint the following standing committees, to consist of such number of members, not exceeding eleven, as he may elect, unless otherwise specially ordered by the House.

1. Ways and Means.
2. Appropriations.
3. Judiciary.
4. Privileges and Elections.
5. Agriculture and Stock Growing.
6. Mines and Mining.
7. Townships and Counties.
8. Education.
9. Military Affairs.
10. Federal Relations.
11. Internal Improvements.
12. Improvements and Manufacturing.
13. State Lands.
14. Irrigation and Water Rights.
15. State Boards and Officers.
16. Labor.
17. Apportionment and Representation.
18. Railroads and Transportation.
19. State Institutions, Public Buildings and Grounds.
20. Fish and Game.
21. Affairs of Cities.
22. Rules and Joint Rules.
23. Mileage and Per Diem.
24. Immigration.

25. Printing.
26. Engrossment.
27. Enrollment.
28. Libraries.
29. Insurance.
30. Highways.

2. He shall appoint all select committees which shall be ordered by the House from time to time, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

3. The first named member of each committee shall be the chairman; and in his absence, the next named member, and so on, as often as the case may happen.

RULE IX.

Committee Clerks.

The majority of each committee shall appoint its clerk. If such clerk or clerks are deemed necessary, who shall be paid at the public expense, the House having first provided for such clerk.

RULE X.

Order of Business.

The first business of each day's session shall be prayer by the Chaplain, roll call, reading of the Journal of the preceding day, and the corrections of any errors that may be found to exist therein, after which the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Presentation of Petitions.
2. Notices.
3. Reports of Standing Committees.
4. Reports of Select Committees.
5. Third reading of House Bills.
6. Third reading of Senate Bills.
7. Reading of House Bills, Resolutions and Memorials.
8. Consideration of Messages from Governor or Senate.
9. Introduction of Bills.
10. Motions and Resolutions.
11. Consideration of the General Orders.
12. Unfinished business.

RULE XI.

Absence of Committees.

No committee shall absent themselves by reason of their appointment during the sitting of the House without special leave, except committees of conference, engrossment or enrollment.

RULE XII.

Debate.

1. When any member desires to speak or deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise and respectfully address himself to "Mr. Speaker," and on being recognized may address the House from any place on the floor, or from the Clerk's desk, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, avoiding personalities.

2. When two or more members rise at once, the Speaker shall name the member who is first to speak; and no member shall occupy more than one-half hour in debate on any question in the House or in the committee, except as further provided in this rule.

3. The member reporting the measure under consideration from a committee may open and close, where general debate has been had thereon; and if it shall extend beyond one day, he shall be entitled to one-half hour to close, notwithstanding he may have used an hour in opening.

4. If any member in speaking, or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any member may, call him to order, in which case he shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain; and the House shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, without debate; if the decision is in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise, and if the case require, he shall be liable to censure or such other punishment as the House may deem proper.

5. If a member is called to order for words spoken in debate, the member calling him to order shall indicate the words excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the House; but he shall not be

held to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the House therefor, if further debate or other business has intervened.

6. No member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the House, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending; in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

RULE XIII.

On Calls of the Roll and House.

1. Upon every roll call the names of the members shall be called alphabetically by surname, except when two or more have the same name, in which case the name of the County shall be added; and if there be two such members from the same county, the whole name shall be called; and after the roll has been once called, the Clerk shall call in the alphabetical order the names of those not voting or answering; and thereafter the Speaker shall not entertain a request to record a vote.

2. In the absence of a quorum, ten members, including the Speaker, if there is one, shall be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, and in all calls of the House the names of the members shall be called by the Clerk and the absentees noted; the door shall then be closed, and those for whom no sufficient excuse is made, by order of a majority of those present shall be sent for and arrested wherever they may be found, by officers to be appointed by the Sergeant-at-Arms for that purpose, and their attendance secured; and the House shall determine upon what condition they shall be discharged.

3. When, on call of the House, there are members present declining to vote, their names shall be called by the Speaker and entered on the Journal as present. If those voting or answering to their names on the call, and those who are present and declining to vote or answer, shall together make a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum is constituted, and the pending question shall be decided as a majority of those voting shall indicate. Members who voluntarily appear shall, unless the House otherwise direct, be immediately admitted to the Hall of the House, and they shall re-

port their names to the Clerk to be entered upon the Journal as present.

4. Pairs shall be announced by the Clerk after the completion of the second roll call from a written list furnished him, and signed by the member making the statement to him.

RULE XIV.

On Motions, Their Precedence, etc., etc.

1. Every motion made to the House and entertained by the Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any member, and shall be entered on the Journal with the name of the member making it, unless it is withdrawn the same day.

2. When a motion has been made, the Speaker shall state it, or, (if it be in writing) cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk before being debated, and it shall then be in possession of the House, but may be withdrawn at any time before a decision of amendment.

3. When any motion or proposition is made, the question "Will the House now consider it?" shall not be put unless demanded by a member.

4. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to fix the day to which the House shall adjourn, to adjourn, to take a recess, to lay on the table, for the previous question (which motion shall be decided without debate), to postpone to a day certain, to refer or amend, or to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the foregoing order; and no motion to postpone to a day certain to refer, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall be again allowed on the same day at the same stage of the question.

5. A motion to fix the day to which the House shall adjourn, a motion to adjourn and to take a recess shall always be in order and the hour at which the House adjourns shall be entered on the journal.

6. On the demand of any member before the question is put, a question shall be divided if it include propositions so distinct in substance that one being taken away a substantive proposition shall remain.

7. A motion to strike out and insert is indivisible, but a

motion to strike out being lost shall neither preclude amendment nor motion to strike out and insert; and no motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

8. Pending a motion to suspend the rules, the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn; but after the result thereon is announced he shall not entertain any other dilatory motion till the vote is taken on suspension.

RULE XV.

Motions Decided Without Debate.

All incidental questions of order, arising after an undebatable motion is made, and pending such motion, shall be decided whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

RULE XVI.

Motions Not to be Renewed.

A motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit or postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall not again be allowed on the same day and at the same stage of the bill or proposition.

RULE XVII.

Privileged Motions.

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when the House is voting, or when the last business transacted was a motion to adjourn, but this rule shall not authorize any member to move an adjournment when another member has the floor.

RULE XVIII.

Any motion or resolution relating to the organization of the House, or to any of its officers, members or committees, shall be privileged and need not lie over for consideration.

RULE XIX.

Members to Vote, Unless Excused.

Every member present, when a question is put, when his name is called, shall vote, unless the House shall, for special cause, excuse him.

RULE XX.

Committal of Papers.

Bills, reports and motions may be committed at the pleasure of the House.

RULE XXI.

Filling Blanks.

In filling blanks the largest sum and the longest time shall be first put.

RULE XXII.

Tie Vote.

In all cases where the House is equally divided the question shall be lost, except on appeal from the decision of the chair.

RULE XXIII.

Reconsideration.

1. When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member who voted with the prevailing side, on the same or succeeding day to move for the reconsideration thereof, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except the consideration of a conference report, a motion to fix the day to which the House shall adjourn, to adjourn, or to take a recess, and shall not be withdrawn after the said succeeding day without the consent of the House, and thereafter any member may call it up for consideration; provided that such motion if made during the last six days of the session shall be disposed of when made.

2. No bill, petition, memorial, or resolution referred to a

committee, or reported therefrom for printing and recommitment, shall be brought back into the House on a motion to reconsider; and all bills, petitions, memorials or resolutions reported from a committee shall be accompanied by reports in writing which shall be entered in the Journal.

RULE XXIV:

No Question to be Twice Reconsidered.

When a motion for reconsideration is decided, that decision shall not be reconsidered upon either of the following motions:

1. To adjourn.
2. To lay on the table.
3. To take from the table, or
4. For the previous question.

RULE XXV.

Previous Question.

1. There shall be a motion for the previous question, which being ordered by a majority, if a quorum be present, shall have the effect to cut off all debate and bring the House to a direct vote upon the immediate question or questions on which it has been asked or ordered; provided, that when the previous question is ordered on any proposition on which there has been no debate, it shall be in order to debate the proposition to be voted on for thirty minutes, one-half of such time to be given to debate in favor of and one-half to debate in opposition to such proposition. The previous question may be asked and ordered upon a single motion, a series of motions allowable under the rules, or an amendment or amendments, and include the bill to its passage or rejection. It shall be in order, pending the motion for or after the previous question shall have been ordered on its passage, for the Speaker to entertain and submit motion to commit, with or without instructions, to a standing or select committee; and a motion to lay upon the table shall be in order on the second and third reading of a bill.

2. A call of the House shall not be in order after the pre-

vious question is ordered, unless it shall appear upon an actual count by the Speaker that a quorum is not present.

3. All incidental questions of order arising from, after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

RULE XXVI.

Amendments.

When a motion or proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order, and it shall also be in order to offer a further amendment by way of substitute, to which one amendment may be offered, but which shall not be voted on until the original matter is perfected, but neither may be withdrawn before amendment or decision is had thereon. Amendments to the title of the bill or resolution shall not be in order until after its passage, and shall be decided without debate.

RULE XXVII.

Of Amendments of the Senate.

Any amendment of the Senate to any House bill shall be subject to the point of order that it shall first be considered in the Committee of the Whole House, if, originating in the House, it would be subjected to that point.

RULE XXVIII.

Notice of Introduction.

All bills and resolutions offered in the House by any member or committee shall be endorsed by the member or committee offering the same, and no bill shall be introduced except after one day's previous notice of the bill by its title, unless by the consent of two-thirds of the members present.

RULE XXIX.

Concerning Reading Generally.

Every bill shall receive three several readings previous to its passage, but no bill shall receive its second and third readings on the same day, except on the last day of the session, and no bill shall receive its third reading that has not been referred to a committee of the House, or a joint committee of the Senate and House. All bills, memorials or joint resolutions on their second reading, unless otherwise provided in these rules, shall be read by their titles.

RULE XXX.

First and Second Reading.

The first reading of the bill shall be for information, if objection be made to it, the question shall be, "Shall the bill be rejected?" If no objection is made or the question to reject be lost, the bill shall go to its second-reading without further question.

RULE XXXI.

Printing of House Bills.

All House Bills after the second reading shall be referred to the proper committee, and if a majority of such committee recommended the passage of the bill, 400 copies thereof as reported shall be printed. A bill may also be ordered printed by an affirmative vote of one-third of the members of the House present. All bills referred to the Printing Committee must be reported within three days, unless further time is granted by the House.

RULE XXXII.

Two Readings Before Commitment.

No bill or resolution that requires three readings shall be committed or amended until it shall have been twice read; and all joint resolutions which shall require the signature of the Governor shall take the same course as to the readings as in case of bills, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

RULE XXXIII.

Reference of Bills, etc.

On the second reading, every bill or memorial requiring three readings shall be referred to an appropriate standing committee, which shall be announced by the Speaker, unless the House, on motion, make a different order in relation thereto. This rule shall apply as well to bills and memorials originating in the Senate, as to those originating in the House; but bills reported by joint committees shall be excepted.

RULE XXXIV.

Majority and Minority Reports.

In case all the members of any committee required or entitled to report on any subject referred to them cannot agree on a report, the majority and minority of such committee may each make a separate report; and any member dissenting in whole or in part from the reasonings or conclusions of both the majority and minority may also present to the House a statement of his reasoning and conclusions; and all reports, if decorous in language and respectful to the House, shall be entered at length on the Journal, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

RULE XXXV.

Title of Bill to be Recited.

Every committee in reporting on any bill or memorial, shall recite at length in their report the title of such bill or memorial as well as the number thereof.

RULE XXXVI.

Reading of Memorials.

If the House shall dispense with the printing of any memorial, such memorial shall be read at length at least once before its final passage, and this rule shall not be suspended without the unanimous consent of the House.

RULE XXXVII.

Reading of Appropriation Bills.

The second and third readings of bills appropriating money shall be at length, and a suspension of this rule shall not be made.

RULE XXXVIII.

General Orders.

Bills referred to committees and reported back to them, bills originating with and reported by committees, shall constitute the "General Orders." Bills in the General Orders shall be arranged therein by the Clerk in the order in which they are reported or referred thereto as aforesaid, and shall be considered in the same order unless the House shall direct otherwise.

RULE XXXIX.

Procedure in General Orders.

The business of the General Orders shall be taken up in the following manner, viz: The Clerk shall announce the title of each bill, or other matter as it shall be reached, in its order whereupon it shall be taken up upon the call of any member without the putting of a question therefor; but if not so moved, it shall lose its precedence for the day. And whenever three bills have been thus moved, the House shall go into Committee of the Whole upon them without further order, but no bill or other matter shall be taken out of its order, except by vote of two-thirds of the members present.

RULE XL.

Concerning Substitutes and Amendments.

No standing or select committee, or any member thereof, shall report any "substitute" or "amendment" for any bill or bills, or resolution, referred to such committee, which substitute or amendment relates to a different subject, or is intended to accomplish a different purpose than that of the original

bill or resolution for which it is reported, or which, if adopted, or passed would require a title essentially different from the title of the original bill or resolution; and any substitute, bill or resolution so reported, shall be rejected whenever the House is advised that the same is a violation of this rule. This rule shall not be suspended.

RULE XLI.

Of Committees of the Whole House.

1. The House may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole by a majority of a quorum voting on motion of a member for that purpose.

2. In all cases, in forming a committee of the House, the Speaker shall leave his chair, after appointing a chairman to preside, who shall in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobbies, have the power to cause them to be cleared.

3. Whenever a Committee of the Whole House finds itself without a quorum, the Chairman shall cause the roll to be called, and thereupon the committee shall rise, and the Chairman shall report the names of the absentees to the House, which shall be entered on the Journal; but, if, on such call a quorum shall appear, the committee shall thereupon resume its sitting without further order of the House.

4. All bills, resolutions or memorials requiring the signature of the Governor shall be considered in the Committee of the Whole before being taken up and considered by the House, and a point of order under this rule shall be good at any time before the consideration of a bill has commenced.

5. In Committees of the Whole House business on the calendar shall be taken up in general order, except bills for raising revenue and general appropriation bills, which shall have precedence, and when objection is made to passing over any bill or proposition, the committee shall thereupon rise and report such objection to the House which shall decide without debate whether such bill or proposition shall be considered or laid aside for the present; whereupon the committee shall resume its sitting without further order of the House.

6. When general debate is closed by order of the House,

any member shall be allowed five minutes to explain any amendment he may offer, after which the member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed to speak five minutes in opposition to it, and there shall be no further debate thereon; but the same privilege of debate shall be allowed in favor and against any amendment that may be offered to an amendment; and neither an amendment nor an amendment to an amendment shall be withdrawn by the mover thereof unless by unanimous consent of the committee.

7. The House or the committee may, by a vote of the majority of the members present at any time after the five minutes' debate has begun upon proposed amendments to any section or paragraph to a bill, close all debate upon such section or paragraph, or, at its election, upon the pending amendment only (which motion shall be decided without debate) but this shall not preclude further amendment to be decided without debate.

8. A motion to strike out the enacting words of a bill shall have precedence of a motion to amend; and, if carried, shall be considered equivalent to its rejection. Whenever a bill is reported from a Committee of the Whole with an adverse recommendation, and such recommendation is disagreed to by the House, the bill shall stand recommitted to the said committee without further action by the House. But before the question of concurrence is submitted, it is in order to entertain a motion to refer the bill to any committee, with or without instructions, and when the same is again reported to the House, it shall be referred to the Committee of the Whole without debate.

9. Every bill in Committee of the Whole shall be read and considered by sections, unless the committee shall order otherwise. The body of the bill shall not be defaced or interlined, but all amendments agreed to by the committee shall be attached to the bill, noting the section and line, and so reported to the House.

10. The rules of proceeding in the House shall be observed in Committee of the Whole House, so far as may be applicable except that a member may speak more than twice on the same subject, and a call for the ayes and nays or for the previous question can not be made in committee.

RULE XLII.

Report of Committee.

After business upon which the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole shall be completed, the committee, without motion, (or at any time upon motion), shall rise and report.

RULE XLIII.

Action of Committee to be Noted.

Whenever any bill or memorial or joint resolution requiring the signature of the Governor shall have been reported to the House with amendment by any committee, and subsequently considered by the Committee of the Whole, the action of the Committee of the Whole on every such amendment shall be noted or endorsed by the Chairman. All amendments made to a memorial or a report committed to a Committee of the Whole shall be noted and reported as in the case of all bills.

RULE XLIV.

Action of House Upon Report of Committee.

The Speaker upon resuming the chair shall receive the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and the House shall take action thereon.

RULE XLV.

Question Before Third Reading.

The final question before the third reading of every bill or other paper originating in the House and requiring three readings previous to being passed shall be: "Shall it be engrossed and read a third time?" and upon every such bill and paper originating in the Senate: "Shall it be read a third time?"

RULE XLVI.

Engrossing of Bills.

Every House bill and resolution ordered to be engrossed and

read a third time shall be typewritten, with all amendments, before such third reading, except as provided for in Rule L, and the Engrossing Clerk shall make, file and retain a correct copy of every bill engrossed and reported to the House.

RULE XLVII.

No Amendment on Third Reading.

On the third reading of the bill or resolution no amendment except to fill blanks, shall be received, except by the unanimous consent of the members present.

RULE XLVIII.

Recommitment Previous to Passage.

A bill or resolution may be recommitted at any time previous to its passage. If any amendment be reported upon such commitment the question shall be upon the amendment, and the question for its engrossment and third reading may then be put.

RULE XLIX.

Question of Passage of Bills.

Upon the third reading of the House Bill the question shall be stated thus: "This Bill having been read three several times, the question is, 'Shall the Bill pass?'" Upon the third reading of the Senate Bill, the question shall be stated thus: "This Bill having been read three several times, the question is, 'Shall the Bill be concurred in?'"

RULE L.

Engrossment of Bills.

Whenever a House Bill which is fairly written, without interlineation or erasure, is ordered to be engrossed for a third reading without amendment, the Committee on Engrossed Bills may report such bill back to the House as an engrossed bill.

RULE LI.

Enrollment of Bills.

The Committee on Enrollment shall not report any bill as correctly enrolled that has any words interlined therein, or when any words have been erased therefrom, except that when the title of any bill shall begin with the words, 'A Bill for an Act, etc.' the Committee on Enrollment shall omit from the enrolled bill the words, "A Bill for."

RULE LII.

When Committee on Enrollment May Report.

It shall be in order for the Committee on Enrollment to report at any time, except when questions are being called, or a call of the House is being had.

RULE LIII.

Each bill which passes its third reading shall be certified by the clerk, and by him transmitted to the Senate. The day of transmission shall be entered on the Bill Books of the Clerk.

RULE LIV.

Prohibiting "Riders."

No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment, and no bill or resolution shall at any time be amended by annexing thereto or incorporating therein, any other bill or resolution pending before the House. This rule shall not be suspended.

RULE LV.

Priority of Business.

All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided by a majority without debate.

RULE LVI.

Suspending and Changing Rules.

No standing rule or order of the House shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given of the motion therefor, which motion shall embrace the proposed amendment. No rule shall be suspended, changed, or rescinded, nor the order of business changed except by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

RULE LVII.

Conference Reports.

The presentation of reports of Committees of Conference shall always be in order except when the journal is being read, or the House is dividing on any proposition, and there shall accompany every such report a detailed statement sufficiently explicit to inform the House, what effect such amendments or propositions will have upon the measure to which they relate, which statement shall be entered upon the journal.

RULE LVIII.

Order in Calling Ayes and Noes.

No member or other person shall visit or remain at the Clerk's table while ayes and noes are being called.

RULE LIX.

Presentation of Petitions, etc.

Petitions, memorials, communications and other papers addressed to the House shall be presented by a member in his place a brief statement of the contents thereof shall be made verbally and endorsed thereon, together with his name, by the member introducing the same.

RULE LX.

Introduction of Resolutions and Bills.

1. Any member offering a resolution in the House may read

the same in his place before sending it to the chair. It shall then be read by the Clerk, unless otherwise ordered by the House; and it shall not be acted upon by the House on the same day on which it is offered, without leave.

2. No member shall introduce more than two bills in one day.

RULE LXI.

Reading of Papers.

When the reading of a paper other than the one upon which the House is called to give a final vote is demanded, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined without debate by a vote of the House.

RULE LXII.

Hall of the House.

The Hall of the House shall be used only for the Legislative business of the House, and for the caucus meetings of its members, except upon occasions where the House by resolution agree to take part in any ceremony to be observed therein; and the Speaker shall not entertain a motion for the suspension of this rule.

RULE LXIII.

Who May be Admitted to the Floor.

Persons of the following classes and no others shall be admitted to the floor of the House during the session thereof, viz: All State and Legislative Officers, members of the late State Constitutional Convention, ex-members of the Legislative Assembly, members of Congress, Judges of the Courts, all editors of newspapers within the State, reporters for the press, having credentials as such, contestants for seats in the House, and such other persons as the Speaker or any member may invite.

RULE LXIV.

Withdrawal of Papers.

No memorial or other paper presented to the House shall be withdrawn from its files without leave, and if withdrawn therefrom, certified copies thereof shall be left in the office of the Clerk; but when an act may pass for the settlement of a claim, the Clerk is authorized to transmit to the officer charged with the settlement thereof, the paper on file in his office relating to such claim, or may loan temporarily to any officer of the Executive departments any papers on file in his office relating to any matter pending before such officer, taking receipt therefor.

RULE LXV.

Ballots.

In all other cases of ballots than for committees, a majority of the votes given shall be necessary to an election, and where there shall not be such a majority on the first ballot, the ballot shall be repeated until a majority be attained, and in all balloting, blanks shall be rejected and not taken into count in the enumeration of votes, or reported by the tellers.

RULE LXVI.

Estimates of appropriations, and all other communications from the Executive departments intended for the consideration of any Committees of the House, shall be addressed to the Speaker, and by him submitted to the House for reference.

RULE LXVII.

Authority on Parliamentary Practice.

1. The Rules of Parliamentary Practice comprised in Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the House in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these rules and orders of the House, and the joint rules and orders of the Senate and the House.

2. On questions of orthography, Webster's International Dictionary shall be taken as the Standard.

Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.

No. 1. Time of Opening and Closing.—The Chamber of the Senate and the Hall of the House of Representatives shall be open from 8 o'clock A. M. until 11 o'clock P. M. each day during the session, unless by resolution of the Senate, its Chamber, or by a resolution of the House, its Hall shall be closed.

No. 2. Messages, How to be Transmitted.—Messages shall be transmitted between the two Houses by the Sergeant-at-Arms, or his assistants, or by such other officers as either House may designate, which messages shall keep each House informed with promptness of all notices given and bills introduced, the general condition and state of the business of the other, and such messages shall be in writing.

No. 3. Announcement of Messages.—When a Message shall be sent from either House to the other, it shall be announced at the door of the House to which it is sent by the Sergeant-at-Arms or his assistant, and shall be respectfully communicated to the presiding officer by the person by whom it is sent.

No. 4. Transmission of Papers.—Each House shall transmit to the other, with any bill, resolution or memorial, all papers upon which the same shall be founded, and on transmission of any House Bill to the Senate the Secretary of the Senate shall deliver to the Chief Clerk of the House a dated receipt for such bill, and on the transmission of any Senate bill to the House the Chief Clerk of the House shall deliver to the Secretary of the Senate a dated receipt therefor.

No. 5. Printing of Bills and Resolutions.—When any bill, memorial or resolution is ordered to be printed, a sufficient number of copies shall be printed for the use of both House and the quota of each House delivered to its Sergeant-at-Arms,

No. 6. Documents Ordered Printed to be Communicated to Each House.—It shall be the duty of the Chief Clerk of

the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate, when any document is ordered to be printed in their respective Houses, forthwith to communicate such order to the other House.

No. 7. Notice of Rejection of Resolutions and Memorials.—When any bill, resolution or memorial which shall have passed in one House is rejected in the other, notice of said rejection shall be given to the House which has passed the same.

No. 8. Five Days' Notice and Consent of Two-Thirds Vote.—When a bill, resolution or memorial which shall have passed in one House is rejected in the other, it shall not again be introduced during the session without five days' notice and consent of two-thirds of the members voting thereon.

No. 9. Title and Number of Bills.—The title of every bill shall briefly state its general object, and every bill shall be numbered by the clerk, and the title thereof, and the name of the member or committee introducing the same shall be endorsed thereon.

No. 10. Journal to Give Title and Number of Bills.—The journal of each House shall give the title and number of each bill, joint resolution or memorial; but the second and all subsequent reference shall be complete when referred to by its number.

No. 11. Enrollment of Bills.—When a bill has passed both Houses it shall be duly enrolled by the Enrolling Clerk of the House in which it originated, and the fact of its origin shall be certified by the endorsement of the clerk thereof.

No. 12. Examination of Enrolled Bills.—When bills are enrolled they shall be examined by a joint committee of three from the Senate, and three from the House, appointed as a standing committee for that purpose, who shall carefully compare the enrollment with the engrossed bills as passed in the two Houses, and correcting any errors that may be discovered in the enrolled bills, make their report forthwith to their respective Houses.

No. 13. Signing of Enrolled Bills by Presiding Officers.—Each enrolled bill shall be signed first by the presiding officer

of the House in which it originated, and then by the presiding officer of the other branch of the Legislative Assembly in the presence of their respective Houses while in session.

No. 14. Notices of Signing Bills to be Given by Presiding Officer.—Upon the presentation of an enrolled bill by the Enrolling Committee of either House to the presiding officer for his signature thereto, he shall arise in his place and give notice that he is about to sign the same, giving the title thereof; whereupon, if any member shall signify his desire so to do, he shall be permitted to examine the same, but no objections to the presiding officer signing the same shall be of any avail if the same conforms to the engrossed bill as it passed both Houses.

No. 15. Bills for Governor's Approval.—After a bill shall have been signed in each House, it shall be presented by the Joint Committee of Enrollment to the Governor for his approval, taking his receipt therefor, and the said committee shall forthwith report to their respective Houses the day and hour of such presentation, which shall be entered upon the journal of such House.

No. 16. Memorials to Congress to Be Enrolled.—All memorials to Congress, or to any officer or other authority of the Government, after they have passed both Houses, shall be enrolled, signed by the presiding officer of the respective Houses, and shall be transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House in which they originated; to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or to the authority memorialized, and a copy to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

No. 17. Joint Resolutions and Memorials to be Filed with the Secretary of State.—Whenever a joint resolution or memorial shall have passed both Houses of the Legislative Assembly, an enrolled copy thereof, duly signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, by the Chief Clerk or Secretary of the House in which the same originated.

No. 18. Conference in Case of Disagreement Between

Houses.—In every case of disagreement between the Senate and the House of Representatives, if either House requests a conference and appoints a committee for that purpose, the other shall appoint a committee to confer therewith upon the subject of their disagreement. They shall meet at a convenient time to be agreed upon by their Chairman and having conferred freely, each shall report to their respective bodies the result of their conference.

No. 19. Chairman of Joint Committees.—In Joint Committees, standing or special, the Chairman of the Senate Committee shall be Chairman of the Joint Committee.

No. 20. Repealing of Joint Rules.—No joint rule shall be repealed, amended or suspended except by two-thirds vote in each House.

No. 21.—All bills introduced in either house shall have suitable covers of a good, substantial material, so that the history of the bill may be written thereon.

No. 22. A Steering Committee Provided For.—The President of the Senate shall appoint a committee of 5 Senators and the Speaker of the House shall appoint a like Committee of 5 House Members, and such 10 members so appointed shall constitute a joint steering committee, and such joint Steering Committee shall on and after the 40th day of the Legislative Session have the authority and are hereby directed to fix the order of consideration of all bills, memorials and resolutions coming before the Senate or House for consideration, subject, however, to the general provision that in the Senate all House business shall be first considered, and in the House all Senate bills shall be first considered; all reports of the House Committee of such joint Steering Committee shall be signed by its Chairman, and shall also be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Senate Steering Committee, and all reports of the Senate Committee of such Joint Steering Committee shall be signed by its Chairman; and also signed and approved by the Chairman of the House Steering Committee.

